

post-Suharto government still has far to go to prove that it is serious about addressing basic human rights. Most urgent is the humanitarian crisis that continues to embroil the people of East Timor. Even as President Habibie announces that he will support independence for East Timor should its citizens reject an autonomy plan, I receive daily reports indicating a serious increase in violent actions by several armed militias, including those by the Makihit, Alfa, Saka and Mahidi. In the last two months, these groups have reportedly attacked villagers in several areas, most recently around Sua, killing civilians and precipitating a refugee crisis with over 5,000 seeking refuge on the grounds of a local church and school. Indonesian Generals have admitted to arming these groups. In this supposed era of promise, turmoil and unrest persist.

In addition, there are reports of on-going and extreme human rights abuses on the part of the Indonesian military in the areas of West Papua, Irian Jaya, Aceh, and Ambon. The summary executions, kidnappings, arbitrary arrest, beatings and torture of civilians continue to create a climate of fear, intimidation. I believe it will be virtually impossible to hold a truly democratic election.

While I support the spirit in which H. Res. 32 was written and support its intentions wholeheartedly, Congress must take this opportunity to encourage the Clinton Administration to press the Indonesian government to address the civil and human rights issues plaguing this nation and its provinces. In addition, we must continue to call for the withdrawal of Indonesian troops, the introduction of U.N. monitors and the immediate and unconditional release of political prisoners in East Timor. Without these crucial steps, Indonesia will not be on a true path to reform.

TRIBUTE TO STELIO MANFREDI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Stelio Manfredi on his retirement from Lucca's Restaurant. Mr. Manfredi has been a respected member of the Madera community for many years. "After all these years, it's finally time to turn the lights out," Manfredi said.

Stelio Manfredi was already one of the most well-known men in town; a life-long Maderan, his face, and name, are among the most recognizable in the community. Manfredi was a bartender at Lucca's Restaurant for 40 years, and during that time he shot the breeze with many, many community members, and listened to the problems of so many more. He always tried to lend a sympathetic ear or give them some advice from the wisdom he's gained in his 83 years of living.

The restaurant's decision to only serve lunch prompted Manfredi's decision to step away, giving himself more time to spend with his wife of 59 years. Being friendly was always Manfredi's nature, as he worked behind the bar at Lucca's. Manfredi, known for his margaritas, will now spend more time in his

garden and tending to his many trees and bushes. Leaving behind the people that he befriended will be the hardest part of retiring from the job.

Stelio and Eve Manfredi have lived in the same central Madera home for 52 years, and during that time they have nurtured their shrubs and trees to the point that it is a lush, virtual paradise. "It's therapy for me," Manfredi said of the many hours he spends outside tending to Mother Nature's creations.

Manfredi hopes to go to the Madera Center and work on his General Education Diploma (GED). Stelio and Eve have two children and six grandchildren. As they raised their family, Stelio worked as a bottling room foreman at Hueblein Winery. He also had his own bar on Gateway Drive for 16 years.

The couple has developed a deep respect and commitment for Madera as they grew up, a feeling they continue to have to this day. Madera has grown tremendously since the early days of their childhoods, they say there will never be another place they will call home. The couple attends St. Joachim's Church and Stelio is a member of the Italo-American Club. Stelio Manfredi said he couldn't ask for more out of life.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Stelio Manfredi on his retirement and service to the community of Madera and Lucca's Restaurant. Stelio Manfredi has been a fixture in the community for many years. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Stelio and Eve Manfredi many years of continued happiness.

TRIBUTE TO THE BAY CITY GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, later this month I will attend the 40th anniversary celebration of the Bay City Girls Softball Association. The Association has a distinguished history of providing recreational opportunities to girls in Bay City, Texas.

Begun in 1959 with the fielding of the Delta Sparks by Lila Ray and Jerry Babik, currently the association serves youth ages 4 to 18. Among the honors received by the group are induction in 1975 of the Bay City VIPs led by Coach Ratliff into the National Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame, and the receipt of the National Association's "Most Improved Award" in 1944.

With heroic community leaders like Jack Rice and Palmer Robbins and recent activists such as Mike Mariner, Judd Perry, J.B. Smith and Dennis Mueck the business of preparing and making available playing fields for the association has been a real community effort in Bay City.

And, with a storied history including legendary players like Patty Branagan, Diane Herreth, Carol Ray, Jeannie Mathis, Linda Babik, Diana Slliva and Connie Brooks and renowned coach Lila Ray the ladies have certainly made the most of these opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend and congratulate the Bay City Girls Softball Associa-

tion and all the community activists who contribute to this association, on this the 40th Anniversary celebration of this important group.

TRIBUTE TO LINDSEY NICHOLS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my constituent, Lindsey Nichols for placing third in the 1999 Voice of Democracy contest. Lindsey is a junior at Collinsville High School in Collinsville, IL. This statewide contest was sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Kahokian Memorial Post 5691 and held in Springfield, IL. I insert her entry for the RECORD:

I sat patiently while Dad attempted to reason with the sales manager over a recently purchased, yet non-functioning, vacuum cleaner. Thirty minutes later I watched as he walked away from the counter, shaking his head in dismay and muttering, "No one believes in service anymore!"

Unfortunately, I'd heard him speak these words on other occasions—while pulling away from fast food drive-ups, standing in a long line at a single open check-out lane or listening to automated voice instructions on the phone.

So I asked, "Dad, what do you expect that you aren't getting . . . what exactly is good service?" He was ready with an answer; for he'd obviously been giving thought to this all his years as a consumer. He replied, "Excellent service is when pride is priority and there is a willingness to go beyond what is necessary, to seek no excuses and to accept responsibility for the outcome."

Wow! That was a lot to think about. For the next couple of days that's exactly what I did. I let those words roll around my head, sort of free-floating, and a funny thing happened. They triggered a memory of the voice of President John F. Kennedy saying, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Then, another memory, the voice of President George Bush calling for service in the form of "a thousand points of light."

Wait a minute—what was happening here? Well, my brain was telling me that what my Dad had said was tied to a bigger picture. Service to customers was merely a model for a much more important concept that we all need to act on, service to country.

However, excuses seem to get in the way of service and there are as many of them as there are people in the world. We sometimes want to do what's easy, to look for a back door, a reason not to "go the extra mile."

During W.W. II the female pilots who flew supply planes never said, "What can I do? I'm just a woman." Nor did the countless women who kept the factories producing for the war effort or the six nurses who won medals of valor for their actions in the Corregidor.

The Native American servicemen, known as the Navajo Code Talkers never said, "Why should I help? I don't owe them a thing." They didn't let racial issues get in the way when their country needed their unique abilities. The Japanese-American soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team didn't either when they fought for their country even though their families were being held in internment camps.